

REMARKS

Claims 27-37, 44-47 and 73 remain pending. Entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 27, 28, 34, 37 and 44-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Gallup et al. (U.S.P.N. 5,611,388). Claims 27, 28, 44-47 and 74-77 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Bertolero et al. (U.S.P.N. 5,868,703). Claims 33, 35 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Gallup.

The allowance of claim 73 and the finding of allowable subject matter in claims 29-32 are gratefully acknowledged.

In the "Response to Arguments", the Examiner emphasized that a pump had not been claimed in the rejected claims and that the addition of more structure to the claims would better place the case in condition for allowance. It is respectfully submitted that with the addition of the pump limitation to independent claim 27, such requirement is adequately satisfied and that any arguments as to whether the catheters of the cited references are actually capable of providing corporeal support, as opposed to merely supporting bodily fluid, are rendered moot.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, applicants earnestly believe the application to now be in condition for allowance and respectfully request that it be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP

By: 
Gunther O. Hanke
Registration No. 32,989

200 Oceangate, Suite 1550
Long Beach, CA 90802
Telephone: (562) 432-0453
Facsimile: (562) 435-6014
Customer No. 27629
9422.1